

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02  
EPG-02 OMB-01 /063 W  
-----030347Z 097533 /13

R 021710Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4325  
TEAS DEPT WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS ROME 7104

PASS FRB

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN, IT  
SUBJ: ITALY EXCLUDED FROM SECRET BIG FOUR MEETING IN PARIS

1. ITALIAN PRESS ON APRIL 30 REPORTS THAT MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS OF US, GERMANY, UK AND FRANCE HELD SECRET MEETING IN PARIS (VERSAILLES) ON APRIL 23 AT INVITATION OF FRENCH PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE RAYMOND BARRE. MILAN'S "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" REPORTS FROM PARIS THAT ITALY AND CANADA WERE NOT INVITED TO ATTEND SECRET PARIS MEETING AND THAT JAPAN, REPORTEDLE, WAS ONLY REPRESENTED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL AND NOT BY MINISTER HIMSELF. ORIGINAL REPORT OF SECRET MEETING APPARENTLY WAS PUBLISHED BY "TIMES" OF LONDON  
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AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY BARRE, WHO DESCRIBED MEETING AS "ENTIRELY PRIVATE AND NOT OFFICIAL."

2. ROME DATELINED ARTICLE IN "CORRIERE" NOTES THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS UNAWARE OF MEETING WHEN JOURNALISTS SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM OFFICES OF PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND TREASURY MINISTER. ITALIAN OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTEDLY

SUGGESTED THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS NOT TO PREPARE FOR MAY-7-8 LONDON SUMMIT BUT RATHER TO PREPARE FOR IMF INTERM COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 28-29.

3. "CORRIERE" ARTICLE ALSO CARRIED REPORT OF SUPPOSED DISCUSSION IN WHITE HOUSE OVAL ROOM AMONG PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND FRB CHAIRMAN BURNS WHICH WAS BROADCAST THROUGH INADVERTENTLY OPEN MICROPHONE. DISCUSSION REPORTEDLY CONCERNED ATTITUDE OF FRENCH TOWARD THE US AS BEING MORE FAVORABLE THAN PREVIOUSLY, WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL ATTRIBUTING THIS TO WEAK FRENCH ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FRANCE'S POSSIBLE NEED FOR AID FROM OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES.

4. /COMMENT/: ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS PICKED UP REPORTS OF BIG FOUR MEETING AND MENTIONED PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN ITALIANS HAD EITHER BEEN EXCLUDED FROM SUCH MEETINGS OF, AS IN CASE OF RAMBOUILLET, WERE ONLY INVITED AT LAST MINUTE. HOWEVER, TONE OF ARTICLES WAS MORE ONE OF RESIGNATION THAN OF DISCONTENT.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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